Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) An expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a heterologous IND1 polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, encoding a polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein introduction of the expression cassette into a plant to suppress IND1 expression results in a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the IND1 polynucleotide comprises positions from about 2765 to about 3361 of SEQ ID NO 1.

8 (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the promoter is constitutive.

10. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the promoter is tissue specific.

11. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 10, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone specific promoter.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) A plant comprising a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

14. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 13, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to the promoter.

15. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 13, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the sense orientation to the promoter.

16. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 15, wherein the polynucleotide sequence further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence encoding the IND1 polypeptide wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to a second promoter.

17. (Original) The plant of claim 13, wherein lignification is reduced in valve margin cells.

18. (Original) The plant of claim 13, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone-selective regulatory element.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A method of delaying fruit dehiscence in a plant, the method comprising suppressing expression of an IND1 nucleic acid in the plant by introducing into the plant a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding an IND1 polypeptide at least about 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the IND1 polypeptide comprises a basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) domain.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the IND1 polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the IND1 polynucleotide comprises positions from about 2765 to about 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the IND1 polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to the promoter

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the sense orientation to the promoter.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence encoding the IND1 polypeptide wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to a second promoter.

27. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein lignification is reduced in valve margin cells.

28. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone-selective regulatory element.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the recombinant expression cassette is introduced into the plant using Agrobacterium.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously presented) An expression cassette comprising a heterologous promoter operably linked to polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein introduction of the expression cassette into a plant to suppress IND1 expression results in a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotide is in a sense orientation with the promoter.

38. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the promoter is constitutive.

39. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the promoter is tissue specific.

40. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone specific promoter.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the plant is a Brassica species.

42. (Previously presented) A plant comprising the expression cassette of claim 34.

43. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 42, wherein the plant is a Brassica species.

44. (Previously presented) A method of delaying fruit dehiscence in a plant, the method comprising suppressing expression of an IND1 nucleic acid in the plant by introducing into the plant an expression cassette comprising a heterologous promoter operably linked to polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the polynucleotide is in an antisense orientation with the promoter.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the polynucleotide is in a sense orientation with the promoter.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence comprising at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked to a second promoter in the antisense orientation.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the promoter is constitutive.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the promoter is tissue specific.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone specific promoter.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the plant is a Brassica species.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein lignification is reduced in valve margin cells.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the recombinant expression cassette is introduced into the plant using Agrobacterium.

55. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotide is in an antisense orientation with the promoter.

56. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 42, wherein the polynucleotide is in a sense orientation with the promoter.

57. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 56, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence comprising at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked to a second promoter in the antisense orientation.

58 (New) A plant comprising the expression cassette of claim 34.

59. (New) An expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a heterologous IND1 polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, encoding a polypeptide at least 65% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein introduction of the expression cassette into a plant to suppress IND1 expression results in a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence.

60. (New) A plant comprising a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide at least 65% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

61. (New) The plant of claim 60, wherein the polypeptide is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

62. (New) The plant of claim 60, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide is operably linked in the sense orientation to the promoter.

63. (New) The plant of claim 60, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to the promoter.

64. (New) A method of delaying fruit dehiscence in a plant, the method comprising suppressing expression of an IND1 nucleic acid in the plant by introducing into the plant a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding an IND1 polypeptide at least about 65% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the IND1 polypeptide comprises a basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) domain.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the polypeptide is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

66. (New) An expression cassette comprising a heterologous promoter operably linked to polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, wherein the polynucleotide is at least 65% identical to at least 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein introduction of the expression cassette into a plant to suppress IND1 expression results in a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence.

67. (New) The expression cassette of claim 66, wherein the polynucleotide is at least 80% identical to at least 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

68. (New) A method of delaying fruit dehiscence in a plant, the method comprising suppressing expression of an IND1 nucleic acid in the plant by introducing into the plant an expression cassette comprising a heterologous promoter operably linked to polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, wherein the polynucleotide is at least 65% identical to at least 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

69. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the polynucleotide is at least 80% identical to at least 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

70. (New) A method of delaying fruit dehiscence in a plant, the method comprising,

suppressing expression of a polypeptide at least 65% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 in a plant; and

selecting a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence compared to a plant in which expression is not suppressed.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the suppressing step comprises contacting a plant with a chemical mutagen or ionizing radiation.

72. (New) A plant characterized by delayed fruit dehiscence selected by the method of claim 70.

73. (New) A plant comprising a modified polynucleotide at least 65% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the plant displays delayed fruit dehiscence compared to a plant lacking the modified polynucleotide.

74. (New) The plant of claim 73, wherein the modified polynucleotide is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

75. (New) A method of creating a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence, the method comprising,

introducing into the plant a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide that is at least 65% identical to at least 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1; and

selecting a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence compared to a plant lacking the recombinant expression cassette.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2

77. (New) The method of claim 75, comprising expressing in the plant a sense polynucleotide at least 65% identical to at least 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 and expressing in the plant an antisense polynucleotide at least 65% identical to at least 200 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

78. (New) A plant created by the method of claim 75.